

REMARKS

Claims 1-43 are pending.

Restriction Requirement

The Examiner requires Applicants to elect one of the following groups of inventions:

- I. Claims 1-13 are drawn to a composition for treating squamous cell carcinoma (SCC) comprising an antibody that specifically binds a migration facilitating protein (MFP) comprising a laminin 5 α G4 and/or G5 domain or subdomain thereof and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.
- II. Claims 14-23 are drawn to a method of treating SCC in a patient comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of one or more antibodies in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, wherein one or more said antibodies is capable of specifically binding a laminin 5 G4 and/or G5 domain or subdomain thereof.
- III. Claims 24-35 are drawn to a method for diagnosing the presence of SCC comprising contacting a sample with an antibody to MFP of a laminin 5 G4-5 domain or subdomain thereof.
- IV. Claims 36-37 are drawn to a method of identifying a candidate binding agent capable of specifically binding a MFP of a laminin 5 α 3 G4 and/or G5 domain or subdomain thereof.
- V. Claims 38-40 are drawn to a method of screening for candidate agents that inhibit SCC tumorigenesis.
- VI. Claims 41-43 are drawn to a method of evaluating the effect of a candidate SCC drug in a patient.

Election

Applicants elect **Group I, Claims 1-13**, drawn to a composition for treating squamous cell carcinoma (SCC) comprising an antibody that specifically binds a migration facilitating protein (MFP) comprising a laminin 5 α G4 and/or G5 domain or subdomain thereof and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier without traverse. Thus, please withdraw claims 14-43.

Species Requirement

Examiner states Groups 1-III contain a genus of patentability distinct species. The species are the following amino acid sequences of an antibody that specifically binds to MFP: SEQ ID NO: 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, 23. The SEQ ID NOs are all different antibodies recognizing different epitopes of MFP. As such, each species would require different searches and the consideration of different patentability issues. Accordingly, applicant must select one of each of the species within each genus.

Species Election

Applicants elect the antibodies of SEQ ID NO: 21 pertaining to G4/G5 1399-1713.

Conclusion

This response is being filed on or before June 16, 2006, thus making this a timely response. Applicants believe no additional fees are due. However, the Commissioner is authorized to charge fees which may be required, including extension fees, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-2319 (Order No. (468330-1810) 33828/US/RFT).

Respectfully submitted,

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